

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 36 is amended to address the issue noted in the Claim Objections section of the Official Action. Withdrawal of the objection to Claim 36 is respectfully requested.

Before turning to the prior art, a brief discussion of the disclosed method of folding a package including a sleeve having a bottom forming portion in the shape of a fin is provided. First, a transversal seal is formed at an end of the bottom forming portion so that the fin has a sealed portion of the transversal seal. The fin 15 with the transversal seal 33 is illustrated in Figs. 5a and 5b. Next, a middle of the sealed portion of the fin is pressed, thereby folding a middle portion of the fin, such that primary flaps are created at transversal ends of the fin, as discussed in the paragraph starting on line 35 of page 12. Then, knives are pressed against corners on the folded fin in boundary regions between the primary flaps and an edge between the bottom forming portion of the sleeve and the rest of the sleeve, as discussed in the paragraph starting on line 11 of page 13. The pressing breaks the corners such that secondary flaps are folded in between the primary flaps and a remaining part of the fin, the secondary flaps on each side of each primary flap thereby being folded essentially towards each other. Finally, the primary flaps are folded toward each other and pressed towards the folded middle portion of the fin, as discussed in the paragraph starting on line 25 of page 15.

Turning now to the claims, Claim 1, the only independent claim, is rejected as being unpatentable over the Cromwell patent in view of the Anderson patent.

Amended Claim 1 recites a method of folding a bottom of a package which comprises a sleeve of packaging material with a bottom forming portion of the package, the bottom forming portion having the shape of a fin. The method includes forming a transversal seal at an end of the bottom forming portion whereby the fin comprises a sealed portion of the transversal seal. The method also includes, after the forming of the transversal seal at the end of the bottom forming portion, pressing a middle of the sealed portion of the fin, thereby folding a middle portion of the fin, such that primary flaps are created at transversal ends of the fin.

Additionally, the method includes, after the pressing of the middle of the sealed portion of the fin, pressing knives against corners on the folded fin in boundary regions between the primary flaps and an edge between the bottom forming portion of the sleeve and the rest of the sleeve, thereby breaking the corners, such that secondary flaps are folded in between the primary flaps and a remaining part of the fin, the secondary flaps on each side of each primary flap thereby being folded essentially towards each other. Finally, after the pressing of the knives against the corners on the folded fin, the primary flaps are folded towards each other, and are pressed towards the folded middle portion of the fin.

Cromwell discloses the folding of the bottom of a box having eight flaps: four bottom closure flaps (70, 74, 78, 82) and four smaller rectangular flaps (72, 76, 80, 84). The bottom is folded by a device having four fixed plates (148, 150, 152, 154) and four pivoted plates (156, 158, 160, 162) attached to a main frame 142. When the bottom of the box is to be folded, the main frame 142 is moved downward so that the four fixed plates (148, 150, 152, 154) engage and inwardly fold the four bottom closure bottom closure flaps (70, 74, 78, 82), as discussed in the paragraph starting

on line 61 of column 7. Once the main frame 142 has reached a predetermined point, the four pivoted plates (156, 158, 160, 162) are actuated to pivot and downwardly into engagement with the four smaller rectangular flaps (72, 76, 80, 84), which action causes all of the flaps to continue to be folded to form a flat bottom, as discussed in the paragraph starting on line 6 of column 8.

The Official Action states that Cromwell discloses a package which comprises "a sleeve of packaging material with a transversal seal at an end of a bottom forming portion of the package... see for example (Figs. 1-5)." Applicants disagree. Cromwell's disclosure is directed to folding a box; sealing the box is not discussed. Indeed the only sealing in Cromwell is with respect to sealing of a plastic bag inserted in the box, as discussed in lines 47-50 of column 3. The Examiner is thus asked to identify with specificity the portion of the disclosure in Cromwell describing the sealing of the box.

Even assuming *arguendo* that, after folding, the bottom of Cromwell's box constitutes a transversal seal, amended Claim 1 is distinguishable. Specifically, amended Claim 1 recites forming a transversal seal at an end of the bottom forming portion whereby the fin comprises a sealed portion of the transversal seal, and, after the forming of the transversal seal at the end of the bottom forming portion, pressing a middle of the sealed portion of the fin, thereby folding a middle portion of the fin. Clearly, there is no such forming of a transversal seal prior to the folding of Cromwell's box. Moreover, the Anderson patent does not cure this deficiency of Cromwell.

Amended Claim 1 also recites that the method includes, after the pressing of the middle of the sealed portion of the fin, pressing knives against corners on the

folded fin, and, after the pressing of the knives against the corners on the folded fin, folding the primary flaps towards each other.

In this regard, the Official Action states that Cromwell discloses both "folding a middle portion of the fin (Fig. 3; via folding portions 70 and 78)" and "pressing the primary flaps towards the folded middle portion of the fin (Fig. 12)". However, Figs. 3 and 12 show the box at the same point of Cromwell's method, but with the apparatus removed for clarity in Fig. 3. Thus, Cromwell cannot be said to disclose a method including, after the pressing of the middle of the sealed portion of the fin, pressing knives against corners on the folded fin, and, after the pressing of the knives against the corners on the folded fin, folding the primary flaps towards each other, in combination with the other features recited in amended Claim 1. Moreover, the Anderson patent does not cure this deficiency of Cromwell.

For at least the above reasons, Claim 1 is allowable over Cromwell in view of Anderson. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is therefore respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful

in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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